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psychology and to promote its useful applications.

SCIENTIFIC ITEMS

WE record with regret the death of Professor Charles Baskerville, director of the Chemical Laboratory of the College of the City of New York; of Dr. Pearce Bailey, the New York neurologist; of Sir William Christie, former astronomer royal; of Sir German Sims Woodhead, professor of pathology in the University of Cambridge, and of Father Giuseppe Lais, vice-director of the Vatican Observatory.

SIR DAVID PRAIN is about to retire, under the age rule, from the directorship of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, which he has held since 1905. He will be succeeded by Dr. A. W. Hill, who has been assistant director since 1907. Dr. Hill, before his appointment to Kew, was lecturer in botany in the University of Cambridge, of which he is a graduate.

DR. HUGH M. SMITH, who has been United States commissioner of fisheries since 1913, has tendered his resignation. Mr. Herbert Hoover, secretary of commerce, has written to Dr. Smith: "I believe your service for thirty-six years, rising from the bottom to the top, in one of our great scientific bureaus, is unique in the history of the government. The whole country is under an obligation to you for so long and faithful a service."

MME. MARIE CURIE on February 7 was elected a member of the Paris Academy of Medicine. It is the first time a woman has been elected a member of one of the French academies. The committee had presented six

names as candidates to succeed the late Edmund Perrier. The five men nominated withdrew their names when they found out that Mme. Curie's name was on the list, and she obtained 64 votes against 15 blanks.

THE officers of the Ramsay Memorial Fund announce that the dean and chapter of Westminster have consented that a tablet containing a medallion portrait of Sir William Ramsay should be placed in Westminster Abbey in the place immediately below that occupied by the Hooker tablet. The tablet is being executed by Mr. Charles Hartwell, A.R.A. It is anticipated that the unveiling will take place in October next. At the request of the Ramsay Memorial Committee a commemorative medal of the late Sir William Ramsay has been executed by the French sculptor, M. Louis Bottée. The medals will be struck in London when it is known approximately how many copies will be required.

A SUMMER meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will, by recent vote of the executive committee of the council, be held at Salt Lake City from June 22 to 24, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Pacific Division of the association. Arrangements for the meeting are in charge of Mr. W. W. Sargent, secretary of the Pacific Division. All members of the association and of the associated societies are invited to be present, and all associated societies are invited to hold sessions. Sections of the association are also invited to hold sessions, but no attempt will be made to have all sections represented on the program of the meeting.